

The task before the Charter Review Commission is an awesome one. For over thirty years the County has attempted to govern under a Charter which has obvious defects and a culture that is unfriendly to change. With a citizen population which is increasingly aware of public affairs the Commission has a window of opportunity to enhance our political structure to enable a more effective form of government on our island.

In order for the Commission to perform its mission it must have the tools and resources necessary to examine the matters requiring attention to reach the appropriate decisions to advance the government of our community. In addition the Commission must be given the access to the public that will enable it to present its views so that its recommendations may obtain the indispensable citizen support for their adoption.

It is a concern of many people to whom I have spoken that the incumbent County officials are apprehensive about the changes that the Commission may propose and while giving lip service to its efforts will fail to provide the support that is essential to its success.

This is a problem that should be addressed by the Commission resolutely and early in the course of the performance of its duties. It is apparent to all concerned that if the Commission does not receive the backing it needs its recommendations will not obtain the votes requisite for their adoption. No one on the Commission should wish to serve on a body which cannot succeed.

I urge that as an immediate priority the Commission should identify the elements that are vital for its function and for its recommendations to have a viable chance for adoption by the electorate. In my view they certainly should include the following:

- Coverage of its proceedings by Hoiike television.
- An adequate budget for Commission scope of activities, including staff support on matters requiring investigation.
- Having a Directive from the Mayor and a Resolution from the Council requiring office managers and department heads to provide testimony about their operations and to furnish timely written responses to Commission interrogatories.
- Obtaining an advisor for legal matters and for parliamentary issues.
- The opportunity for examination of officials responsible for County offices and departments by Commission members and the public.
- The ability to convene public meetings for testimony on topics on the Commission's agenda and presentation of the recommendations.

Realistically the success of the Commission's function depends on its having the necessary tools and facilities to ascertain and promulgate the recommendations it may wish to make and then make a presentation of them together with the Commission's views to the public. Without the tools and facilities mentioned or ones identified by the Commission, its mission will be critically impaired and your valuable efforts would

almost certainly be a futility. I would urge that you present your requirements for a meaningful implementation of your duties to the Mayor as early as feasible. If these requirements are not promptly met to the satisfaction of the Commission, I believe that the Commission members should be prepared to resign from their appointment rather than engaging in a doomed endeavor.

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